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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/737,268	12/15/2003	Richard W. Flemming	D/A3025	6192
25453	7590	12/28/2004	EXAMINER	
PRASAD, CHANDRIKA				
ART UNIT			PAPER NUMBER	
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/737,268	FLEMMING ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Chandrika Prasad	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/03

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1, 2, 16, 20-21, 23-24 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Benfante (6015314).

Benfante (Figures 1-4) shows a sacrificial circuit connector 42 comprising a connector body 44 with a male connector side and a female connector side, each side with circuit coupling elements 68 and 70 connected together in a circuit conduit wherein the male side and the female side are compatible with female connector terminals 22, 24 and male connector terminals 34, 36. The sides of the connector could be compatible with Electronic Industry Alliance Standard 364-09, Revision C (1999). Connector terminals 22, 24 are connected to wires by crimping. The coupling elements 68 are male projection pins whereas the coupling elements 70 form female receptacles.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 3-15, 17-19, 22, 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benfante (6015314).

Benfante shows all the features of these claims except the life cycle of the connector, visual indicia, a counter or a tag for tracking the number of cycles, plurality of sacrificial connectors and the use of the connector in a printer system. These features

are common knowledge and well known in the art of electrical connectors. Connectors of different life cycle ratings are readily available. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide these well known features for the intended purposes, which are obvious.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Michaels et al. (4802864), Perrin et al. (5982253), Jones, Jr. Et al. (6531657) and Van Brunt et al. (4820201).

Contact Information

5. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrika Prasad whose telephone number is (571) 272-2099.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor can be reached at (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.



Chandrika Prasad
Primary examiner
December 21, 2004